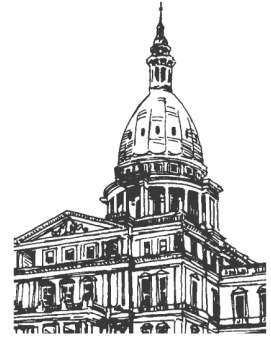


STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT • 2ND DISTRICT

Scott Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SUMMER SPEEDS UP ACTIVITY AT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

LANSING – State Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) is reminding Michigan citizens that as the first holiday weekend of summer approaches, the American Red Cross needs new and previous blood donors to make an appointment to donate blood more than ever.

“The Red Cross won’t be taking a break until they’ve thoroughly communicated the critical need to give blood during the summer,” said Senator Scott, a member of the Red Cross Honor Roll of Michigan Government Officials. “You might say the Red Cross is out for blood this summer.”

Blood donations drop in the summer, especially around holiday weekends, as donating blood takes a back seat to vacations and fun in the sun. Last year, blood donations dropped 10 to 15 percent from Memorial Day through early September.

“Although the season changes, the need for blood doesn’t,” said Sharon Jakska, CEO of the Great Lakes Region Blood Services of the American Red Cross. “It’s critical for our community to have a strong blood supply year-round, and especially on high travel weekends like Memorial Day.”

Roadway and travel-related accidents can put a serious dent in the blood supply. A victim of a car crash, for example, can need transfusions of up to 40 units of blood in just a few hours. When blood supplies are short, that emergency demand can cut into the day-to-day supply needed for ongoing medical treatments related to cancer, surgeries and other serious illnesses.

“Most every summer, we struggle to keep enough blood on hand for our hospitals and our patients,” Jaska said. “We’d like to change that by enlisting more people to give.”

To make an appointment to donate blood, call **1-800-GIVE LIFE**, or visit www.givelife.org.

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Senator Scott represents the 2nd Senate District, which includes areas of Detroit and the cities of Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park and all of the Grosse Pointes. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee.